

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-01 /004 R

66619

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:LMCNUIT

APPROVED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS

EA/PH:ASWIFT

OES/SCI/SA:RMORRIS

----- 089123

R 080101Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052296

FOLLOWING REPEAT CINCPAC 041245Z MARCH 75 TO MANILA

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L//N05727//

A. (U) AMEMB TOKYO 211045Z FEB 75 (NOTAL)

PRESS INTEREST

1. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPLETE NEWS STORY BY DAVID TEIBEL, REPORT
ER

FOR PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, 4 MARCH 1975. STORY APPEARED ON PAGE 3.

2. (U) STORY HEADLINED "JAPANESE UPSET BY TYPHOON STUDY." FOLLOWING
IS THE COMPLETE STORY FYI: QUOTE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED
THE TRANSFER OF A TYPHOON MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT FROM THE ATLANTIC
TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC, TOUCHING OFF A "STRONGLY NEGATIVE" REACTION
FROM JAPAN. (PARA) THE COUNTRY FEARS THE EXPERIMENT COULD CAUSE A
LOSS OF TYPHOON ASSOCIATED RAINFALL AND AN INCREASE IN STORM DAMAGE,
ACCORDING TO A CLASSIFIED REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO
OBTAINED RECENTLY BY THE DAILY NEWS. (PARA) THE PROPOSAL ALSO HAS

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TOUCHED OFF JAPANESE EFFORTS TO BLOCK INTRODUCTION OF A U.S. RESOLU-
TION AT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
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(ESCAP) CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA, ACCORDING TO THE

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT. (PARA) IN DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THE EXPERIMENT, THE JAPANESE ALSO HAVE POINTED OUT "IN A LOW KEY THAT POSSIBLE DAMAGES COULD EVEN LEAD TO CLAIMS AGAINST THE U.S.," ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY REPORT. (PARA) THE EXPERIMENT, ACCORDING TO A LOCAL METEOROLOGIST, IS AN UNCLASSIFIED STUDY STARTED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) IN ROCKVILLE, MD., IN THE EARLY 60'S. (PARA) THE STUDY CALLED PROJECT "STORM FURY," INVOLVES "SEEDING" CLOUDS NEAR THE "EYE" OF TYPHOONS OR HURRICANES WITH SILVER IODIDE CRYSTALS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE STORM'S WIND FORCE AND ITS POTENTIAL DESTRUCTIVENESS, ACCORDING TO THE METEOROLOGIST. (PARA) SEEDING THE CLOUDS CAUSES LIQUID WATER NEAR THE EYE TO FORM ICE CRYSTALS, RELEASING HEAT WHICH HOPEFULLY CAUSES THE STORM'S EYE TO EXPAND AND REDUCE THE STORM'S FORCE, THE METEOROLOGIST EXPLAINED. (PARA) ONE OF THE BY-PRODUCTS OF THIS IS TO CAUSE PREMATURE RAINFALL, AND IT IS TO THIS AND THE LACK OF INFORMATION ON HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE DIRECTION OF TYPHOONS TO WHICH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OBJECTS,

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ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY REPORT. (PARA) "THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TYPHOON MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT WOULD PROVIDE NEW METEOROLOGICAL DATA ON TYPHOONS AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF METEOROLOGY...." ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SUMMARY OF A JAPANESE RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL. (PARA) THE RESPONSE WAS DELIVERED LAST MONTH TO A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BY A JAPANESE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT. (PARA) "HOWEVER," THE SUMMARY CONTINUED, "IT HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR HOW THAT RAINFALL OR THE DIRECTIONS OF TYPHOONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY SEEDING TYPHOONS." (PARA) "THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, THEREFORE, HAS BEEN APPREHENSIVE (AS TO) WHETHER SUCH (AN) EXPERIMENT MIGHT CAUSE OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE TO OTHER REGIONS WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED," THE EMBASSY REPORTED THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE AS SAYING. (PARA) THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF DATA COLLECTED ON THE EFFECT THE INDUCED RAINFALL WOULD HAVE ON THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE OF COUNTRIES NEAR THE EXPERIMENTAL AREA, THE LOCAL METEOROLOGIST SAID. (PARA) HE ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE PHILIPPINE SEA WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY AREA IN WHICH TO CONDUCT THE EXPERIMENT BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE TYPHOONS ARE THE MOST FREQUENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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(PARA) "IF SUCH EXPERIMENTS ARE MADE ON TYPHOONS IN THE WEST PACIFIC,

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WHICH HAVE FAR MORE ENORMOUS ENERGY THAN THE HURRICANES IN THE ATLANTIC, A POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED OF CAUSING OTHER TYPES OF DAMAGE WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE CAUSES," THE EMBASSY QUOTED THE

JAPANESE AS SAYING. "THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF THE JAPANESE NATIONALS, CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY," THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED. (PARA) "MOREOVER....PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF (THE) EXPERIMENTS HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY STRONG," THE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY ADDED. (PARA) THE REPORT WENT ON TO QUOTE THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE AS SAYING THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT "COULD NOT AGREE, AT THIS STAGE, TO THE PROPOSAL" AND WOULD VOTE AGAINST IT IF THE U.S. INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTION AT THE ESCAP CONFERENCE. (PARA) "(THE) OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF DELIVERING (THE JAPANESE) RESPONSE AT THIS TIME IS TO SEEK TO AVOID INTRODUCTION OF (THE) RESOLUTION FAVORING PROJECT "STORM FURY," THE EMBASSY REPORT SAID. (PARA) THE REPORT WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. INFORMED THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE THAT IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE U.S. POSITION WOULD BE TO DEFER ON THE RESOLUTION TO AVOID A PROCEDURAL ISSUE, BUT THAT THE "BASIC ISSUE OF UNDERTAKING THE EXPERIMENT," WHICH IS FAVORED BY U.S. SCIENTISTS, STILL REMAINS. (PARA) THE JAPANESE REACTION

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WAS EXPECTED, BUT, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WAS "CONSIDERABLY STRONGER" THAN THE EMBASSY EXPECTED. (PARA) THE EMBASSY REPORTED A SHIFT IN THE JAPANESE ARGUMENTS FROM THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROJECT MIGHT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AFFECT "BADLY NEEDED" TYPHOON-ASSOCIATED RAINFALL, TOWARD ARGUMENTS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE EXPERIMENT. (PARA) THE EMBASSY CONCLUDED, ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORT, THAT THIS SHIFT IS BECAUSE THE JAPANESE FEEL THEIR ARGUMENT WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF IT WERE BASED ON POSSIBLE DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE EXPERIMENT, RATHER THAN THE "ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC" ARGUMENT THAT RAINFALL MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. (PARA) IN A "BRIEF" DISCUSSION OF THE JAPANESE RESPONSE, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE "OBSERVED" THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH STAND A GREATER CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANCE OF BEING AFFECTED BY THE EXPERIMENT THAN JAPAN "SAY MERIT" IN THE PROJECT AS THE BEST HOPE FOR REDUCING FUTURE DAMAGES, THE REPORT SAID. (PARA) ASKED FOR ITS COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED TRANSFER, A NAVY SPOKESMAN DEFERRED TO NOAA AND THE NAVAL WEATHER SERVICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (PARA) "WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, NOTHING AT ALL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. (PARA) THE EMBASSY REPORT, HOWEVER, SHOWS A COPY WAS SENT TO THE COMMANDER, NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS (COMNAVMAR). (PARA) ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL METEOROLOGIST, THE

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MILITARY IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE STUDY, WHICH IS COMPLETELY UNDER CIVILIAN CONTROL. UNQUOTE.

3. (C) THIS COMMAND HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

THAT TEIBEL SAW THE MESSAGE (REF A) ADDRESSED TO GOVGUAM, ON THE DESK

OF GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

GDS 81 UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PRESS COMMENTS, STORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE052296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LMCNUTT
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0308
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750369/aaaackeh.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWS STORY BY DAVID TEIBEL ON TYPHOON STUDY.
TAGS: TPHY, XP, US, JA, (TEIBEL, DAVID)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006